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BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.



# ANNUAL REPORT

for

1937

on the

## HEALTH OF MAIDSTONE

by the

Medical Officer of Health.

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P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.,  
M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

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Medical Officer to the Education Authority for the  
Borough of Maidstone.

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# BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

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## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1937.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of  
Maidstone.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maidstone for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

Although in the early months of the year the Town suffered severely from a visitation of influenza, the health of Maidstone during the year has been good and the incidence of notifiable infectious disease has not been heavy. The death rate for the year, 11·1 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, is slightly below that recorded in 1936 in the Borough and compares well with the rate for England and Wales, which for 1937 is 12·4 and with that of the 125 County Borough and Great Towns, which is 12·5 or of the 148 smaller Towns, which is shown as 11·9 per 1,000. The infantile death rate of 60 per 1,000 live births is the same as that recorded for London but is slightly above the figure for the whole country of 58 per 1,000 live births, and I regret to have to report an increase in the maternal mortality rate.

There has been further advance in the provision of houses and for the most part this has been the work of private enterprise, but the supply of houses has not overtaken the demand and while numerous houses built for sale to prospective occupiers are available, there is still a shortage of houses for the poorer members of the community at rents which they can afford and I urge that more building of houses for letting should be undertaken, until there is a sufficient supply to ensure that extortionate rents are not obtainable.

There are improvements and augmentation of the Town's water supply in hand and the public supply has been excellent both in quality and quantity.

To the Corporation, the Chairmen and Members of the Committees which are concerned with Public Health matters, to my colleagues of the Corporation Staff and to my professional brethren in the Borough, I should like to offer my sincere thanks for the help and co-operation I have received during the year, and,

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MAIDSTONE,

*June 1st, 1938.*

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN.

# BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1937-1938.

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### Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

### Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

### Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor W. R. HYDE, J.P.)

Alderman J. HILLIER FRENCH, J.P.

„ W. H. MARTIN, J.P.

Councillor W. DAY.

Councillor S. J. LYLE.

„ T. HUNTER.

„ P. WAKEFIELD.

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE, J.P.

„ B. J. WATSON.

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## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE, 1937-1938.

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### Chairman.

Councillor F. R. CONNOR, J.P.

### Vice-Chairman.

Councillor J. A. GIBB, M.D.

### Members.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor W. R. HYDE, J.P.)

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Councillor W. DAY.

Councillor B. J. WATSON.

„ T. HUNTER.

Mrs. FOSTER CLARK.

„ F. J. SHRUBSOLE, J.P.

Mrs. R. B. HAYNES.

„ S. J. LYLE.

Miss MARJORIE HAYNES

„ P. WAKEFIELD.

Mrs. G. C. DEVAS.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

**Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.**  
P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

**Deputy Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.**  
DORA F. ROSE, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned 30/1/37)  
SARAH HARRIS, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., (Appointed 1/4/37)

**Chief Sanitary Inspector.**  
W. A. N. Baker, M.C., A.R.S.I.,  
Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

**Additional Sanitary Inspector.**  
G. S. Adams, A.R.S.I., Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

**Health Visitors.**

Miss E. M. Reid—Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.  
Miss M. Jackson—State Registration Certificate General Nursing ; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board ;  
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Miss J. Tindale—State Registration Certificate General Nursing ; Certificate of the Central Midwives Board ;  
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

**Public Analyst.**  
E. M. Hawkins, Canterbury, F.I.C., F.C.S.

**Veterinary Officer.**  
C. Crowhurst, M.R.C.V.S.

**Matron of Isolation Hospital.**  
Miss L. Bennett, S.R.N., C.M.B.

**Clerks.**

R. J. Davis.	R. S. Yates.
H. H. Moule.	S. V. Carr.

## SECTION A.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

AREA.—5,972 acres.

POPULATION :—Census 1921—37,448.

„ 1931—42,259.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, 1937—47,290.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (end of 1937) ACCORDING TO RATE BOOKS, 12,600.

RATEABLE VALUE—£436,911.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE—£1,730.

The description of Maidstone, which has been given in previous reports, as a busy and prosperous county town and the centre of a flourishing area, has happily been maintained in the past year. Agriculture, still the industry of basic importance in the prosperity or otherwise of the community, has had fairly good fortune and this has been reflected in the well-being of the County Town. The local industries have continued to prosper; the manufacture of paper has increased in importance and output, the preparation of foodstuffs and confectionery afford steady employment and the revival of the engineering trades, consequent on the re-armament programme, has brought welcome activity in the local works, while the building trade has been increasingly good.

Unemployment has still been frequent and this has been more apparent on account of the influx of workers from other areas, lured here by the reports of industrial activity and the hope of work, but which the local industries have not been able to absorb. There is no direct evidence of significant influence of unemployment on the health or physique of children or adults, and as an index of the prosperity of the Borough, there is satisfactory evidence in the findings as to the nutritional state of the children seen at school medical inspection. Among these, only 7 cases were found where the nutrition was classified as "Bad"; those returned as "Slightly sub-normal" were but 8% of the total, while 81·3% were shown as "Normal" and 8·7% as "Excellent." This reassuring state of affairs is, in many cases, evidence of the self-sacrifice of the parents and testimony to the housekeeping efficiency of the Maidstone mothers but investigation of the cases classified as "Bad" shows that in the majority, the poor nutrition is the result of illness in infancy or of poor housing conditions rather than of poverty or unemployment.



## Extracts from Vital Statistics

### LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate .....	607	330	277
Illegitimate .....	39	22	17
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			13·7
STILLBIRTHS. ....	25	15	10
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....			37·3
DEATHS ... ..	570	292	278
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...			11·1
Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—			

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis.....	3	4·47
No. 30 other puerperal causes	2	2·98
Total .....	5	7·45

### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age ;—

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	60·4
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	62·6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	25·6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	69
"    "    Measles (all ages) .....	0
"    "    Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
"    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	3

## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(I) The particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority are set out at the beginning of the Report.

(ii) *a.* **LABORATORY FACILITIES.** The provision made by the Kent County Council for bacteriological and pathological work has been mentioned in previous reports and the Borough of Maidstone is in an exceptionally fortunate position in having so complete a laboratory service on the spot

(ii) *b.* **AMBULANCE FACILITIES.** These have also been described in previous reports, and the service has been well maintained in the past year. The need for increased provision in connection with Air Raids Precautions has been appreciated and the Maidstone Corps of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade has been very active in the enrolment and training of recruits.

(ii) *c.* **NURSING IN THE HOME** The existing arrangements for home nursing, by the two nurses attached to the West Kent General Hospital have continued in operation but it has been felt that these provisions were not adequate for the needs of the town and district. The Maidstone District Nursing Association has therefore

been established and has met with much success. The Association undertakes the provision of the services of district nurses, not only in the Borough, but in the adjacent villages and at the end of 1937, the membership reached a total of over 5,000. During the year, the visits paid by the nurses employed by the District Nursing Association totalled, 2,049 and additional staff and some form of motor transport for the nurses will be required. In 1937, two nurses were employed by the Association and a third is to take up duty on January 1st, 1938.

(ii) *d.* TREATMENT CENTRE AND CLINICS.

(*t*) Maternity and Child Welfare. The three clinics which have been mentioned in my previous reports—at the Old Palace, at Barming and at Mangraves—have continued to work with conspicuous success. The attendance at the two latter clinics, which were established as branches of the original centre at the Old Palace, showed some falling-off during the year, but there has been an improvement in the later months and both clinics are now increasing in numbers and success, which reflects credit on the Health Visitors working at these centres. The ante-natal clinic, held weekly at the Old Palace, is continuing to do excellent work, but there is still an apparent reluctance on the part of the midwives practising in the town to visit the centre or send their patients there. This lack of use of the ante-natal clinic is one piece of evidence in favour of what was so strongly urged, that the Child Welfare Authority should also be the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts. The pre-school clinic is still filling the gap between the infant welfare centre and the school medical inspection and I hope that the attendance at this clinic will be increased, though there are many of the “Toddlers” who get the required supervision, at the infant clinics, when they are brought at the same time as the new baby. The assistance of the voluntary workers, who have contributed so much to the success of these clinics in the past, has been continued during the year and I hope that we may still have this much valued help in the working of the scheme.

(*u*) Tuberculosis. The Kent County Council tuberculosis Dispensary in Station Road, is widely used by patients from the Borough and from the surrounding districts.

(*v*) Venereal Diseases Clinic. This is also provided by the County Council, the Clinic at Rochester being used for the Maidstone area.

(*w*) School Clinics Minor ailments. For each of the three areas of the Borough, served by a Central School, there is now a minor ailment clinic; for the West Borough area, the clinic is at the Education Offices, 13

Tonbridge Road, for the South Borough area at South Borough School, Loose Road, and for the North end of the Town, at North Borough School. Thus each group of schools—a central school and satellite infants' and primary schools—is provided with a minor ailment clinic and these have continued to do excellent work. For the infant's schools, it is not always possible for these little ones to attend at the minor ailment clinic and for these cases, the School Nurse and Health Visitor comes to the schools and advises as to treatment. At these clinics, the number of children treated in 1937 was 1,264 and the total attendances were 4,847 and these arrangements have been of much value in the treatment of minor maladies and the saving of loss in school attendance.

(x) Dental Clinics. The dental clinics have been continued on the lines described in previous reports. The need for school dental treatment and justification for the appointment of the whole-time school dental surgeon are demonstrated by the fact that the dental inspections in the past year revealed that treatment was required in 72% of the children examined. I am relieved to be able to report that the arrangement mentioned in last year's report, by which part of the time of the school dental surgeon was to be given to work for the County Education Committee, is to be terminated, for there is more than sufficient work in the Maidstone schools to occupy the whole time of the Dental Officer.

I must mention the need, which is pressing, for improved accommodation for the minor ailment clinic and particularly for the dental clinic, at Tonbridge Road. The present space is totally inadequate and the dental surgeon, the medical officers and the nurses are working under grave difficulties, while the overcrowding which now exists is a detriment to the work of the Education and Public Health Departments.

(y) Orthoptics and Orthopædics. These clinics have been established at the local hospitals and much benefit has been obtained by the patients referred thereto.

(z) Child Guidance. No child guidance clinic has as yet been established in Maidstone and indeed there is no such clinic available nearer than London, but the establishment of such a clinic by voluntary effort is suggested and I hope it will come into being in 1938.

The report on the School Medical Service for 1937 has already been published and particulars of the work done at these clinics are to be found therein. Details of the Infant Welfare work are set out overleaf.



(ii) *e.* HOSPITALS. The voluntary hospitals which serve the Borough of Maidstone are the West Kent General Hospital and the Kent County Ophthalmic & Aural Hospital, both of which are situated in Maidstone. Details of these hospitals are given in previous reports and there is no need for recapitulation here. The voluntary hospitals at Rochester and Tunbridge Wells and in the Metropolis have also given treatment to patients from Maidstone. The local hospitals have been widely used during the year and there is a constant strain on the beds available, especially in the summer months, from the large number of road accident cases which have to be admitted. The County Hospitals, at Pembury and Coxheath and the Medway Hospital also serve this area.

The hospital accommodation for which the Local Authority is directly responsible is the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Fant Lane and the Maternity Home at the West Kent General Hospital. Of the former, I have written at length in many reports preceding this one, until the repeated notice of its inadequacy and defects becomes wearisome. This Hospital, built nearly 60 years ago, was doubtless considered to be an up-to-date and sufficient provision for the needs of the Borough in those days, but now it is quite insufficient, both in accommodation and equipment. The wards give a number of beds which is insufficient for the needs of the town; their design makes the separation and nursing of the patients very difficult while heating and maintenance are wasteful and expensive. The Nursing and domestic staff which are required cannot be housed in the present staff quarters: the kitchen is inadequate, both in space and equipment, while the laundry is completely unsuitable for the purposes of an up-to-date hospital. An increase in the number of beds, the provision of cubicle wards and possibly of private wards, reconstruction and enlargement of the quarters for nursing and domestic staff, in order that reasonable space and comfort may be given to the nurses, a new and enlarged kitchen, with adequate and modern cooking and refrigeration apparatus and the re-building of the laundry are things which are urgently needed and for which I have been asking in my reports since 1931. There is space available on the site to extend and enlarge the hospital and to give the isolation accommodation needed for Maidstone, even if the Borough grows much larger. But, though these improvements are admitted to be necessary, the Health Committee is still left in doubt as to what the future of the Maidstone Isolation Hospital is to be, in the scheme which the County Council is to prepare for the Isolation Hospitals in the County. So long ago as 1932, the survey of the Isolation Hospitals was made and some abortive consultations with the local authorities took place. Since then, no progress appears to have been made and the Maidstone Corporation is left in uncertainty as to the future of the Isolation Hospital and naturally unwilling to embark on what must be an expensive scheme of reconstruction until the future retention of this hospital is assured.



As foreshadowed in my report for 1936, the new Maternity Ward at the West Kent General Hospital was completed during the year and in the autumn of 1937 was opened for the reception of patients. This maternity ward is a complete unit, with 16 beds for maternity cases, in small wards of four beds each, with the necessary labour rooms, isolation ward, nursery ward, reception room and bathrooms, and has been provided by a partnership between the municipal M. & C.W. scheme and the hospital. By this, the provision of the new extension to the hospital for the maternity ward and the additional accommodation at the Nurses Home, for the staff required, was carried out by the hospital, the construction being financed by the Corporation. Of the beds provided, one half—that is, 8—are to be reserved for the purposes of the Corporation's scheme and the Borough is to pay one half of the cost of the new ward, while the remaining 8 beds are for the West Kent Hospital, for cases from districts other than the Borough and the West Kent Hospital is to repay to the Corporation the remaining half of the cost. Maintenance charges are to be paid by the M. & C.W. scheme in respect of the 8 beds allocated to the scheme and there is provision whereby additional beds, if needed and available, can be occupied by patients sent in from the M. & C.W. scheme for which additional maintenance charges will be paid. The new maternity unit has already proved that it is needed and appreciated and Maidstone now has hospital provision for maternity cases of which the Borough may be proud. I believe that this arrangement, by which a partnership between the voluntary hospital and the municipal scheme is established, is unique in the country but I feel sure that it is one which is to the advantage both of the hospital, in that the financing of the maternity ward is secured, and of the Corporation, by the linking of the municipal maternity hospital provision to the general hospital and the utilising of the medical and surgical resources of the voluntary institution.

B. 3 (i). MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES. The number of midwives practising in the Borough is 17, and, of these, 7 are midwives appointed under the County Council under the Midwives Act, 1936. The appointment, supervision and inspection of the midwives is in the hands of the County Health Department and they are not employed or subsidised by the Local Authority. I have urged before that where, as in Maidstone, the Local Authority is the authority for Maternity and Child Welfare, the supervision and inspection of midwives and especially the employment and appointment of the whole-time salaried midwives under the Midwives Act of 1936, should be entrusted to the same authority, whose knowledge of local needs and conditions is certain to be greater than is possible for a more distant and Olympian body, such

as the County Council, and whose organisation of ante-and post-natal clinics and M. & C.W. centres, which are essential factors in a comprehensive scheme, is already in existence. This view was urged on the County Authority, but without success and I still think it regrettable that the M. & C.W. authority should not also be the controlling authority for the midwifery service.

During 1937, 682 births were notified, 654 live births and 28 still-births. Of these, in 461 cases the confinement was in the patients' homes, and 221 births took place in nursing homes or hospitals. I give below the number of births in Maidstone and the maternal mortality rate for the past 9 years :—

Year.	No. of Births.	Maternal deaths.	Maternal death rate.
1929	647	—	—
1930	680	2	2.94
1931	668	—	—
1932	665	2	3.01
1933	603	2	3.32
1934	654	4	6.11
1935	675	2	2.96
1936	721	1	1.39
1937	671	5	7.45

It will thus be seen that the average maternal death rate for the past 9 years is 3.02 and it is regrettable that the figure for 1937 shows an increase.

The provision of milk for necessitous nursing and expectant mothers and for infants in necessitous cases is authorised by the Corporation and during 1937 the amount of milk thus supplied was 827½ gallons of fresh milk and 596 pounds of dried milk.

B. 3 (ii). INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS OR CHILDREN. During the past year, there has been no alteration or development of the institutional accommodation for mothers or children. As in previous years, use had been made of various charitable agencies to obtain convalescent treatment for children in need of change of air, and also of the sea-side institutions maintained by the Public Assistance Committee, while the Education Authority has now 12 physically defective children who are being educated at special residential schools. The "Pre-school" clinic is becoming of greater assistance and value in care of "Toddlers" and in the prevention and early treatment of defects. The appointment of an additional Health Visitor has made an increased amount of home visiting and supervision possible. But I again record my firm conviction that the care and supervision of children between two and five years of age is bound up with the provision of day nurseries and of nursery schools. I have indicated this to the Corporation and to the Education Committee in previous reports and would urge again that such provision is needed and very desirable.

B. 3 (iii). **HEALTH VISITORS.** The number of Health Visitors employed in the Borough in 1937 was 3, but at the end of the year, an additional Health Visitor was obtained. These combine the duties of Health Visitor and School Nurse for a definite area of the town and this plan of combining the duties has worked well and is an advantage to the nurses, in increased interest and variety in the work, and to the Borough in that, in her own area, the Health Visitor becomes a friend and advisor in the homes and that overlapping of duties and waste of time are avoided.

B. 3 (iv). **INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.** Each of the Nurses employed by the Corporation as Health Visitors also undertakes duty as Visitor under the Children Act, 1908, as amended by the Children & Young Persons Act, 1932, and in the area for which she is responsible as Health Visitor, also visits the boarded-out children. As a result, there has been a more satisfactory supervision of the foster-mothers and the boarded-out children and the care of these foster-children has been linked up with the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. The details of the administration of Part I of the Children Act, 1908, are tabulated below :—

**CHILD LIFE PROTECTION. (Section 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936.)**

(a) Number of persons receiving children for reward on the Register at the end of the year ... ..	32
(b) Number of children on the Register :—	
(i.) at the end of the year .....	35
(ii.) who died during the year .....	—
(iii.) on whom inquests were held during the year...	—
(c) Number of Infant Protection Visitors at the end of the year who were :—	
(i.) Health Visitors...	3
(ii.) Female, other than Health Visitors .....	1 School Nurse.
(iii.) Male .....	—
(d) Number of persons (in addition to or in lieu of Visitors under (c) above) or societies authorised to visit under the proviso to Section 2 (2) of the Act of 1908 ... ..	—
(e) Proceedings taken during the year :—	
No. of Cases.	Act and Section under which proceedings were taken.
—	—
(f) Number of cases in which the local authority has given a sanction during the year :—	
(i.) Under (a) of Section 3 of the Children Act of 1908	—
(ii.) „ (b) „ „ „	—
(iii.) „ (c) „ „ „	—
(g) Number of orders obtained during the year under Section 67 of the Act of 1932 :—	
(i.) from a court of summary jurisdiction ... ..	—
(ii.) from a single justice ... ..	—



B. 3 (v). **ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.** The treatment of orthopædic cases in the Borough of Maidstone is provided for by the establishment of a weekly orthopædic clinic at the West Kent General Hospital. This is under the care of Mr. Alan Todd, M.S., F.R.C.S., and cases are referred there by the practitioners in the district, and by the M. & C.W. centres and the School Medical Department. Remedial exercises, massage and electrical treatment are available and excellent results have been obtained, though the accommodation is limited and this is one of the departments of the hospital which needs and deserves extension and enlargement.

## **SECTION C.**

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

C. 1 (i). **WATER.** The public supplies of water in the Borough of Maidstone are drawn from the various sources owned and controlled by the Maidstone Water Company. These consist of deep wells and springs, whence the water is pumped to reservoirs and elevated tanks, for distribution throughout the town. In the past year, the supply has been constant and satisfactory and no restriction of the use of water has been necessary at any period.

The gathering grounds, springs and reservoirs of the Company are regularly patrolled and inspected by their own staff. During the year, inspections of the sources, reservoirs and pumping stations were made by myself and the Consulting Bacteriologist to the Water Company, Professor John Eyre, in company with the Company's Engineer. At each inspection, the entire works, including the reservoirs and the pumping stations, were found to be in a most satisfactory condition. The purity of the water is controlled by bacteriological examination the results obtained have been constantly and consistently good. These results are tabulated at the end of this report. As a measure of additional security, the chlorination of the water from the Ewell source has been continued. Chemical analyses of the water from all the sources have also been made and these results are also shown in the tables.

To cope with the difficulty caused by the presence of iron in the water from the Cossington source, the Company have installed a filtering plant at this pumping station. This was completed during the year and has proved to be very satisfactory in the removal of the iron and I hope that the complaints which have been made in the past, of discoloured water from this source will now be obviated.

Good progress has been made with the completion of the new bores and pumping station at Boxley and these should be in operation by the end of 1938 and will provide sufficient water for the needs of the Borough, and for any probable extension.

The water mains have been extended in various parts of the Borough area, to provide supply for new housing estates.

Below is a table showing the average results of the chemical analysis of the water during the year.

Average results, 1937.	BOARLEY.	COSSINGTON.	FORSTAL.	EWELL.
Total Solid Residue ... ..	25.8	24.1	37.5	29.6
Chlorine ... ..	1.51	1.40	2.35	1.88
Nitrogen (Nitrates) ... ..	0.35	0.24	0.25	0.22
Nitrogen (Nitrites) ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ammoniacal Ammonia ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iron ... ..	0.006	0.008	0.00	0.00
Oxygen absorbed ( $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 27° C.)	0.002	0.0015	0.002	0.002
„ „ (4 hours at 27° C.)	0.004	0.004	0.005	0.004
Total Hardness ... ..	15.9	15.6	24.5	18.6

C. 1. (ii). DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. During 1937 extensions of the town sewer system—soil and surface water sewers—have been made, to serve various housing estates, as shown below ;—

	Soil sewers.	Surface water.
London Road Estate ... ..	340 yards	360 yards
Cherry Grounds Estate ... ..	66 yards	—
Allington Estate ... ..	240 yards	263 yards
Penenden Estate ... ..	—	435 yards
Thornhill Estate ... ..	120 yards	120 yards
Coombe Estate Extension ... ..	880 yards	(Soil & S.W.)
Glebe Lane ... ..	700 yards	—
Pickering Street ... ..	380 yards	—

C. 2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. The main streams draining the Borough area are the Medway and its tributary, the Len and in both of these, there is undoubted pollution. The Medway is unfortunately polluted by sewage and trade effluents, both above the point where it enters the Maidstone boundary and on its course through the town. A series of samples taken above and below the town and at various points in the reaches between, showed the water in the river above the town was of very poor organic quality and that the water of the river, after passing Maidstone was also of very poor quality and more polluted than before. This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs, for this river should be an asset and a source of pride to the town and if it is allowed to become as foul as other rivers have become in parts of England, posterity will certainly blame us. The water on reaching Maidstone is already polluted and the Borough adds greatly to the existing contamination of the river and this is a state of things which should not be allowed to continue. But it is of little use for one authority to strive for improvement, while the river is being polluted elsewhere and concerted action on the part of all the authorities along the course of the river is needed and to obtain this the Kent County

Council and the Drainage Board are in a much stronger position than any single authority. The Borough Council are, I am sure, ready and willing to do its share and to co-operate in measures to secure that the Medway is no longer polluted.

The Len stream also shows a certain amount of pollution, though with the co-operation of the paper works on its banks, some improvement and diminution of pollution by trade effluent has been obtained. Samples taken in November 1937 (1) at the Borough boundary ; (2) above Mill Street and (3) at the confluence of the Len and the Medway show that (1) and (3) gave results which cannot be objected to, considered as stream waters, though they would be considered of doubtful organic purity by the standards usually adopted for drinking waters. Sample from (2) showed some evidence of recent organic pollution and also contained too great an amount of suspended solids. Samples taken from the Loose stream, at Mount Ararat, Tovil and at the Ivy Mill, were also reported as giving results which, considered as stream water, cannot be objected to.

C. 3 (i). CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The approximate number of premises equipped with each type of sanitary convenience is shown in the table below. Most of the houses in the Borough are now connected with the sewer system and the remainder are generally situated in the out-lying parts of the town and particularly in the areas added to the Borough at the extension of the boundaries. The extension of the sewers to these areas will permit of the abolition of many cess-pools and the conversion of these and the earth and pail-closets is proceeding regularly.

W.C's discharging into sewer system	...	12,332
W.C's " " cesspools	...	202
Earth closets or privy middens	...	83
Pail closets	...	85

C. 3 (ii). PUBLIC CLEANSING. The arrangements for the collection and disposal of house refuse have continued to work satisfactorily. The scavenging of house refuse in Maidstone has been carried out by contract, the vehicles used being covered electrically-driven wagons, but there is a scheme under consideration for the performance of this work directly by the Corporation and various types of refuse cart are to be tried out. Disposal is by incineration at the new plant, which was described in former reports. Various improvements for the recovery and storage of saleable salvage have been carried out during the year and the new baling press for tins has proved very successful. The disposal works have proved adequate for all the refuse to be incinerated and there has been no nuisance.

C. 3 (iii). SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. I give below in tabular form, the report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935 and Article 19 (15) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926 :—

# Sanitary Inspection of the Area

## TABLE OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed .....	15
Bakehouse inspections .....	34
Chimneys repaired .....	62
Cement sinks removed and glazed provided .....	24
Cooking Stoves renewed or repaired .....	39
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops inspections .....	42
Common Lodging House inspections .....	19
Coppers repaired .....	23
Drains cleansed on complaint or by flushing staff .....	2799
" choked and cleansed .....	667
" reconstructed .....	38
" tested with smoke .....	78
" " water .....	58
" inspection chambers provided .....	38
" " " airtight covers provided .....	50
" stoneware pipes laid .....	1716'
" iron pipes laid .....	42'
" trapped from sewer and ventilated .....	11
Dustbins provided .....	64
Factory, workshop, workplace and outworkers' premises inspected .....	124
Fresh air inlets provided .....	18
Grates renewed or repaired .....	39
Houses, cement floors provided in cellars .....	5
" floors to living-rooms provided or repaired .....	86
" shooting or guttering repaired or renewed .....	60
" roofs repaired .....	129
" rooms where dirty or loose paper has been removed and walls and ceilings repaired and distempered .....	412
" walls made dry by insertion of damp course or other method .....	72
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Diseases .....	120
Inspection of houses on complaint or otherwise .....	440
" of work in progress .....	2107
Mortar joints of brickwork repaired .....	251
Miscellaneous defects remedied .....	41
Outbuildings or Washhouses repaired or rebuilt .....	37
Poultry or animals removed .....	7
Schools inspected .....	10
Sink or other wastepipes removed, disconnected or trapped .....	32
Sinks, new channels provided or repaired .....	30
Slaughterhouse inspections .....	710
Stairs repaired .....	52
Stoneware gullies provided .....	38
Strainers provided to gullies .....	30
W.C.'s, Walls and ceilings repaired .....	61
" additional, provided .....	18
" flushing apparatus provided or repaired .....	40
" new pans and traps provided .....	23
" structural defects remedied .....	22
Water supplies provided .....	20
Window frames repaired .....	86
Window sashes hung so as to open full size and cords renewed .....	113
Vermineous rooms cleansed .....	310
Yard pavement repaired or provided in connection with houses .....	52
Preliminary Notices served .....	112
Statutory Notices served .....	210

C. 3. (iv). SHOPS, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. During 1937, action was taken under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to the lack of sanitary conveniences at one shop and a certificate of exemption was granted. I give below a tabular statement of the number of inspections of factories and workshops, showing the number of defects found and action taken and the result.

### Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

#### 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories..... (Including Factory Laundries).	43	1	—
Workshops..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	57	—	—
Workplaces ..... (Other than Outworkers' premises).	7	—	—
TOTAL.....	107	1	—

#### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PARTICULARS.  (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H. M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :				
Want of Cleanliness .....	15	15	—	—
Want of Ventilation.....	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding .....	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage Floors.....	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances .....	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation. { Insufficient .....	2	2	—	—
{ Unsuitable or Defective ..	3	3	—	—
{ Not Separate for Sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :—				
Illegal Occupation of Underground Bake-house (s. 101).....	—	—	—	—
Other Offences .....	—	—	—	—
(Excluding Offences relating to the out-work and Offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921.)				
TOTAL.....	20	20	—	—



C. 3. (v). SMOKE ABATEMENT. Complaint has been made at various times during the year of the emissions from factory chimneys and where necessary, observation has been kept on such chimneys, with the object of securing abatement of the nuisance caused by the emission of black smoke. I am glad to be able to record again that I have found that the firms concerned are ready to take every possible measure to prevent this cause of complaint and a message drawing attention to the state of the chimney meets with immediate response.

C. 3. (vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS The swimming baths open to the public in Maidstone consist of the public baths provided by the Corporation, at which there are two baths, large and small, for swimmers. These baths are very largely used by the public and for a considerable part of the available time, they are resorted to by the school children, under arrangements made between the Education Committee and the Baths Committee. In fact, it has been felt in some quarters that too much use of the baths is given to the schools and that the facilities for the public are restricted in consequence. These baths are not of the most modern type and have many faults of design and equipment and there is a scheme, which seems likely to come at last to fruition, for the construction of new swimming baths for the Borough and for the leasing of the present baths to the Education Committee for the use of the schools children in the town. If this is approved, the school children of Maidstone will be very excellently catered for as regards swimming facilities.

The water in the existing baths is cleansed and purified by means of a plant for continuous filtration and chlorination and, always provided that intelligent and sufficient supervision is given, the results are satisfactory. The condition of the water is checked by bacteriological examination.

In the summer, there is much use of the Medway for bathing, especially in the reaches above the town, but until the state of this river shows an improvement, this is hardly satisfactory.

At the Boys' Grammar School, there is now a swimming bath, which is used in the summer months. The water in this pool is also cleansed by filtration and chlorination.

C. 3 (vii). ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Vigorous measures against the pest of bed-bugs are now among the major activities of the public health service. There is increasing evidence of the ill-health and actual disease caused by the presence of these creatures which have been tolerated for so long as inevitable inhabitants of the older houses in our town. Prior to the slum clearance campaign, there was a silent acceptance of the presence of bugs and palliative measures, by means of various insecticides, were all that were attempted. How widely this pest was spread through the older and poorer house property was only known to

the dwellers in the infested houses and to those whose work took them into the poorer parts of our towns, and the presence of bugs as one of the inescapable afflictions of life was regarded by some of the population with resignation.

Effective measures for the removal of this pest are now available and the expenditure on the eradication of bed-bugs is well justified. There can be no question of the ill-effect on the health of those, especially the children, who are constantly attacked by the vermin and I can recall no health service which has been more eagerly sought by the public than the modern measures for the disinfection of verminous houses. Bugs are not easy to eradicate from the older type of house where the construction and fittings afford many breeding places but in new houses, materials and methods should be chosen which will not afford harbouring places for these insects. I am glad that the recommendation that old houses marked for demolition should be vigorously treated for the destruction of vermin before the pulling-down begins, has been followed. But it must not be forgotten that the clearing of a house of bugs is difficult and expensive, once they are established, and that a house once cleared may easily become infested again, if there is a lack of cleanliness. The increase of bugs is invariably associated with a lack of cleanliness and vigorous and systematic house-cleaning is the best method of preventing the increase and continuance of this pest. In the war against bugs, the slogan, so often seen, has an extra weight of effectiveness, "Where there's dirt, there's danger."

During the year the following work in the eradication of bed bugs was carried out :—

(1)	Council houses found to be infested .....	59
	Council houses disinfested :—	
	(a) by gassing with Hydrogen cyanide .....	42
	(b) by spraying and burning sulphur candles ...	17
	Other houses disinfested by gassing with Hydrogen Cyanide .....	2
	Other houses disinfested by spraying or burning sulphur candles .....	38
	Verminous households fumigated before removal into a Council house or during transfer to another Council house .....	35
	Other houses fumigated with gas (houses in Clearance Areas before demolition ..	43
(2)	In the case of verminous Council houses which are already empty, or where the tenant is able to vacate the premises for the necessary 48 hours, disinfection is carried out by means of Hydrogen Cyanide gas. In other cases the method adopted is by spraying with an insecticide and/or the burning of sulphur candles.	

- (3) All houses of families who are moving into Council houses are inspected for cleanliness before the removal of the family and where vermin are found, the furniture is fumigated with Hydrogen Cyanide gas during the transfer. The bedding is treated at the steam disinfecter.
- (4) The fumigation of premises by Hydrogen Cyanide gas is carried out by a Contractor.

C. 3 (viii). PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The premises in the Borough which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations are as follows :—

Common Lodging Houses .....	6
Slaughter Houses .....	16
Houses let in Lodgings .....	6
Cowsheds .....	11
Dairies and Milkshops .....	25

The common lodging houses and the houses let in lodgings have been the source of some difficulty. There have always been many migrants in this district who need lodging and the housing shortage has resulted in many of these, who hoped for more permanent employment in Maidstone, having to remain in the lodging houses for long periods. I think it is regrettable that the proposal to establish a municipal lodging house was rejected and I cannot think that the question as to whether such a lodging house would be completely self-supporting or not should carry too much weight in this matter.

The slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and the dairies and milk-shops are closely supervised.

C. 3 (ix). RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928. There are three premises in the Borough where rag flock is used and these are regularly inspected.

C. 4. SCHOOLS. There are 18 Public Elementary Schools in the Borough of Maidstone and in 1937, the school population was 5,153, which is an increase over that recorded in 1936. This is the first year since 1934 that there has been an increase and I think that it is probable that the next few years will show a progressive rise in the school population and that the Education Committee is well advised to make provision for a further demand on the available school places.

SCHOOL HYGIENE. In previous reports I have mentioned the admirable type of school buildings which have been erected by the Education Authority and in the new school which is now almost completed at South Park Road, there is an advance on any school which has hitherto been provided in the Borough. The older



schools present a difficult problem and East Borough School in particular is an illustration of how a school which, when it was erected, was regarded as completely up-to-date and satisfactory, is now a source of anxiety as to how the essential needs of a central school are to be met. The transfer of part of this school to the premises shortly to be vacated by the Girls' Grammar School will result in a great improvement at East Borough School. It is in the schools which are provided by other agencies than the Education Committee that the great difficulties of old and unsuitable buildings and the deficiencies of space and equipment are more apparent. Some of the Managers of these non-provided schools have tackled the problem with courage and determination and have secured great improvement in the buildings and in the sanitation of the old schools, but in others, there is an unwillingness to undertake the expenditure required or even to accept the plain fact that these schools need extensive improvement before they can be regarded as approaching the required standard or meriting comparison with the other elementary schools in the town.

The water supply of all the schools is from the mains of the Maidstone Water Company. Except at Willington School, which will be closed when the new school at South Park Road is completed and where chemical closets are in use, all the schools are connected with the sewer system. Improvements in the sanitary offices at All Saints' C.E. School were carried out during the year, though I could wish that the Managers had gone further and done all that is desirable. The school at Tovil is in need of re-construction and improvement of the sanitary arrangements—the latter being particularly urgent—and I would press for such alterations, not only as sanitary improvements, but as educational measures for the enlightenment of the citizens, present and future, and as an aid to the raising of the sanitary standard in our country.

There are numerous private schools in the town and these are for the most part well equipped and housed in suitable buildings. There is a residential school, for children from "difficult homes," which is run by the Caldicott Community. This is located in the mansion at Mote Park and the drainage from these premises is to a cess-pool.

The Boys' Grammar School is housed in new and excellent buildings and I understand that extensions are contemplated by the Governors. The new buildings for the Girls' Grammar School are nearing completion and should be ready for use in the autumn of 1938.

During the past year, school closure on account of infectious disease was not necessary and I trust that this procedure which has not been needed for several years, will not again be thought necessary, for I am certain that such closure, far from being a help in the control of an outbreak, is a factor tending to enlarge the area of infection and a hindrance to the discovery and supervision of contacts.

## SECTION D.

**Housing.**

There has been considerable activity in the building of new houses in the Borough during the past year. 264 houses and 4 flats were erected by private enterprise in the town and the Corporation have erected 48 new flats in King St., which have been of great assistance in the re-housing of the families displaced by the demolition of unfit houses. But there is still a demand for houses which is not yet met. The new houses built have in most cases been built for sale and the man who can afford the initial deposit and whose income and security of employment allows him to incur the responsibility of house purchase by instalments, can find a choice of houses in Maidstone, but the house which can be rented at a reasonable figure is still hard to find and further building of houses which can be let is necessary. The few houses which are available for letting are so sought after that the rents demanded are in many cases excessive and there is need for the provision of more houses, until the supply and demand is in some measure approximate.

Appended below is the statistical information which is asked for by the Minister of Health.

**Housing Statistics.**

<b>I.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.</b>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	443
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	591
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subsection (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	21
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose ...	101
(3) (a) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	373
<b>II.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.</b>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	192

**Housing Statistics, (continued).****III.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.****A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 AND 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	19
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	14
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

**B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	125
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	75
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

**C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	13

**D.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—

**III.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part 4—Overcrowding.**

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	121
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	121
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	857
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	10
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	115
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	755
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	—

Of the 121 cases of overcrowding returned as existing at the end of the year, 50 cases are found in houses belonging to the Corporation and 71 in houses not belonging to the Corporation. Of these 121 dwellings returned as overcrowded, 71 are overcrowded by one or more units and 50 dwellings to the extent of one-half unit.

**ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING.** In 39 cases in houses owned by the Corporation and in 8 cases in houses in other ownership, the overcrowding has been abated by the transfer of the family to a large Corporation house. Six cases of overcrowding have been abated in the process of re-housing families displaced from the Clearance areas. The remainder of cases where overcrowding has been abated are due to :—

- (a) Diminution of the size of families from removal of some members of the families concerned.
- (b) Departure of the family from the district.
- (c) The family have secured a larger house by their own efforts.

During the year, Clearance Orders were made in respect of three areas in the Stone St., Ward of the Borough. The total number of houses dealt with in the three areas was 41 and the number of persons to be re-housed by the Corporation was 213.

**CLEARANCE AREA No. 1.** This area included Nos. 104-120 Upper Stone St., Nos. 3 & 4 Thorner's Yard and Nos. 6-20 Sheal's Place and was the subject of a compulsory purchase order. The demolition of these premises was begun in October by a contractor on behalf of the Corporation and the site is at present being cleared.

**CLEARANCE AREA No. 2.** The houses dealt with in this area were No's 1-11 Waterloo St. The demolition was carried out by the owner and completed in October.

**CLEARANCE AREA No. 3.** This area comprised No's 1-4 Woollet's Yard, Upper Stone Street. The work of demolition is being carried out by the owner and is at present in hand.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

**E (a). MILK SUPPLY.** The cowsheds in the Borough area are 11 in number and the dairies and milkshops total 25. These are inspected regularly and are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. During 1937, 42 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors and additional visits were paid by myself, while 39 samples of milk were taken for examination. Samples of the

milk supplied to the Public Elementary Schools and to the Isolation Hospital were also taken for bacteriological examination and this practice, while it is primarily intended to secure that a satisfactory supply is available for the schools and the hospital, has an indirect result in raising the standard of bacteriological purity in the milk supplied in the town. The bulk of the milk sold in Maidstone is produced in the adjacent Rural Districts and the M.O.H. also holds the appointment of M.O.H. for the Hollingbourn Rural District, and in this capacity is able to give supervision to some of the milk supplied in the Borough, both as produced and distributed.

E (b). MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The number of slaughter-houses in the Borough is 16, of which 4 are licensed and 12 are registered. These slaughter-houses are frequently visited for inspection as to cleanliness and they are also under constant supervision when they are visited during the progress of slaughtering, for the inspection of meat. During the year there were 710 inspections at the slaughter-houses, but as I have done in previous reports, I urge that one of the more pressing needs of Maidstone is for a public abattoir, where all meat killed in for human consumption in the Borough could be inspected. This is a matter which should have consideration for with the large number of slaughter-houses now in operation, all in use at the same time, and with the small staff of Inspectors, it is impossible to secure inspection of more than a proportion of the carcasses intended for food.

The number of carcasses inspected and condemned during the year was as follows :—

	Cattle, excluding cows				Cows, Calves.		Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed...	...	...	...	...	Exact number not known but approximately 75% inspected.			
Number inspected	...	..	...	48	158	153	860	1585
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.								
Whole carcasses condemned	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	...	—	6.9	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.								
Whole carcasses condemned	...	1	8	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	...	—	15	—	—	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	...	2	11.5	—	—	—	—	1.5

In addition to the above 303 lbs. of beef were condemned because of decomposition.

During the year, the following quantities of foods of various descriptions were found to be unfit for human consumption. This unfit food, all of which was surrendered and destroyed, included the following :—

Tinned foods, etc.	29 tons, 15 cwt., 0 qrs., 26 lbs.
Tomatoes ...	29½ cases.
Chocolate dates ..	2 gross.
Toffee ... ..	49 lbs.
Hams ... ..	16. Weight 1 cwt., 3 qrs., 13½ lbs.
Cod ... ..	22 stones.
Tongue ... ..	6 lbs.

### E (c). ADULTERATION Etc.

Samples of various articles as shown in the following list were taken and examined with the results as given below :—

Article.	Number Obtained.	Number Genuine.
New Milk ... ..	39	33
Cheese Powder ... ..	1	1
Coffee ... ..	3	3
Cream ... ..	3	3
Butter ... ..	3	3
Margarine .. ..	3	3
Lard ... ..	3	3
Liquorice Powder ... ..	1	1
Glauber Salts ... ..	1	1
Tincture of Quinine ... ..	1	—
Camphorated Oil ... ..	1	1
Crushed Linseed ... ..	1	1
Aspirin ... ..	1	1
Eucalyptus ... ..	1	1
Beef Sausages ... ..	2	2
Pork Sausages ... ..	2	2
Mixed Spice ... ..	1	1
Ground Ginger ... ..	1	1
Baking Powder ... ..	1	1
White Pepper ... ..	2	2
Whisky ... ..	1	1
Brisling ... ..	1	1
Dripping ... ..	1	1
Tea ... ..	1	1
Raspberry Jam ... ..	1	1
Mustard ... ..	1	1
	77	70



## PROSECUTIONS.

There were two prosecutions during the year ; in the first case a retailer of milk was dismissed on payment of costs for selling milk deficient in fat to the extent of 15% and in the second case a retailer was fined £1 for selling milk with 10·7% of added water.

## E (d). CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The chemical analysis of samples of food is carried out by the Public Analyst, Mr. E. M. Hawkins, F.I.C., F.C.S., at Canterbury, and the bacteriological examinations required are made at the County Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

## SECTION F.

**Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.**

F. (2) The prevalence of notifiable infectious disease was not exceptionally noteworthy during the year and, so far as the notifiable diseases are concerned, there was nothing approaching an epidemic. The number of cases of scarlet fever notified was slightly below that recorded in 1936, 45 as against 48 and the disease was again of a mild type and there were no deaths from this cause. Of the notified cases, 43 were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and 2 in households where adequate isolation and nursing could be secured, were treated in their own homes.

The cases of diphtheria notified were 51, which is an increase of 4 over 1936. Again I have to comment on the fact that the total of cases of these diseases is increased by the inclusion of cases notified and sent to the Isolation Hospital, from the other hospitals in the district. Thus in 1937, 2 cases of scarlet fever were transfers from the Ophthalmic Hospital, four cases of diphtheria came from the same institution and four from the staff at the Kent County Mental Hospital.

I regret to have to report that there were two deaths from diphtheria and I must again refer to the fact that there is no justification for any delay in the administration of anti-toxin. Supplies are available for the use of practitioners and are issued on demand from the Health Department Office, the Isolation Hospital or the Police Station. Promptitude in the administration of the serum is of the greatest value and may make the difference in the saving or losing of the patient and it is neither necessary nor desirable to wait for the laboratory report to confirm the diagnosis before using the anti-toxin. But I find that it is the custom of many of my colleagues to defer the administration of anti-toxin, until the swab is reported positive and the patient reaches the Isolation Hospital.

Twenty-four cases of pneumonia were reported, but as the deaths from this cause numbered 26, it would appear that not even all the fatal cases are notified and the notification figures of this disease are not such as to warrant any valid conclusions or comparisons being drawn therefrom.

Sixteen cases of erysipelas were notified and of these 12 were reported from the Kent County Mental Hospital. The two cases of dysentery notified were also from this institution.

I give below an analysis of the notifications of infections and other diseases, according to the Wards of the Borough in which they occurred. For this table, I have excluded the cases in the Hospitals.

		High St.	Stone St.	King St.	North	Heath	Bridge
Scarlet Fever	...	7	6	2	10	9	9
Diphtheria	..	14	6	8	2	4	6
Pneumonia	...	2	3	—	1	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	1	—	3	1	—	2
Erysipelas	..	1	1	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		2	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	1	—	—	—	—	—

Among the non-notifiable diseases, the chief was influenza, which assailed the Borough with great severity in the early months of 1937. This was an epidemic of true influenza and considerable severity both in extent and in type and was accompanied by bronchitis and in some cases by broncho-pneumonia. The outbreak lasted through January and February and in many of these cases, there were persistent sequelæ of bronchitis and myocarditis. There was a certain amount of chicken-pox, whooping cough and measles, especially among the children and in the autumn of the year, a good number of cases of epidemic catarrh. These cases are often described as influenza but are not of the true influenzal type and it is regrettable that there should be this loose description of varying clinical conditions.

The accommodation which is available for any case of small-pox which may occur in the Borough is in the hospital belonging to the Hollingbourn Rural District Council and situated at Harps Wood. There have been no such cases in the past year and this happy state of affairs has continued for some years, but I am much concerned at what might happen should small-pox appear in the Borough, for this freedom from the disease has resulted in a widespread neglect of the precaution of vaccination and the proportion of unvaccinated children in Maidstone is now very large.



The Borough Isolation Hospital in Fant Lane has been mentioned in previous reports and earlier in this report and its limitations and deficiencies have been the subject of reports to the Health Committee. The beds available at this hospital only allow of the admission of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria : there is no ward for puerperal fever cases, for such diseases as cerebro-spinal meningitis or for complicated cases of measles. Erysipelas cases can only be sent to the Public Assistance Hospital while fevers of the enteric group cannot be sent to the Isolation Hospital, but have to be treated in the West Kent General Hospital, which I cannot think is desirable. There are no observation wards, private wards or any kind of cubicle ward and even if beds for diseases other than scarlet fever and diphtheria were available, there is no room for the nursing and domestic staff which would be required and the kitchen and laundry accommodation now provided is not sufficient even for the present needs of the hospital. The design and lay-out of the hospital are antiquated and it is impossible to use even the present inadequate number of beds to the best advantage ; there are only the four large wards and the presence of any complication, such as a case of measles or chicken-pox among the patients, or even the variations of age, sex and disease among the cases, causes grave difficulty in the administration of the hospital. The design of the buildings makes them difficult to maintain and heat, and adds to the expense, and there is a growing difficulty in obtaining and retaining the necessary staff. I have commented in former reports on the suggestion that has been made for a combination of the hospitals of a group of authorities, and on the delay in coming to a decision on what is really a pressing matter, but there is space on the site of our present hospital for an enlarged hospital, which would be adequate for the needs of the district and which is necessary if the needs of the Borough are to be supplied.

School notifications of infectious and other diseases are sent to me by the Head Teachers of the Public Elementary Schools and also of the Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools. These notifications are of very great assistance in the investigation of cases and the discovery of possible contacts. Particularly is this the case in the non-notifiable diseases, such as measles and chickenpox, where such school notifications are often the only channel of information.

Particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases—other than tuberculosis—in the Borough during 1937, are set out below.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	45	43	—
Diphtheria ... ..	51	51	3
Enteric Fever .. ..	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever and .. Pyrexia ... ..	7	7	5
Pneumonia ... ..	24	17	26
Erysipelas... ..	16	13	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	—
Dysentery ... ..	2	2	—
Totals ... ..	151	139	34

Further work was carried out during the past year in the immunisation of school children against diphtheria, though owing to the gap between the departure of Dr. Rose and the arrival of Dr. Harris who followed her, and also to the fact that I was incapacitated for two months in the early part of the year, it was not possible to make as much progress as in 1936. During the year, 342 children received the course of immunising injections. Of these 137 had a subsequent Schick test, 134 proving negative while 3 had remained positive and were given further protective inoculation. There were no severe reactions and no complications followed and in fact, we have had requests for the immunisation of the remaining children in a family, because the parent—possibly the Father with unpleasant memories of war-time inoculation parades—was agreeably surprised that the one who had been immunised felt no discomfort.

I am glad to report that there is a continued desire on the part of parents for this protection for their children. The dangers of diphtheria are well known and appreciated and the long disability which follows an attack, even when the patient makes an uneventful recovery, is obvious to any thoughtful parent. Though we make no claim that we can promise 100% protection, the results that have been obtained in several places in this country, and particularly in Canada, show conclusively that diphtheria can be conquered and that this dread can be removed from the life of the

community. The procedure is simple and causes practically no disturbance and, while I should prefer that the children were immunised before entering on school life, there is an increased willingness among the wise parents to avail themselves of the facilities offered and I hope that in a few years a large proportion of the children in the Borough will be protected against this scourge.

Disease for which examination was made.	Results.		Total.
	Positive.	Negative.	
Diphtheria .....	42	796	838
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	54	234	288
Various .....	21	44	65
	117	1074	1191

#### EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

This service is provided by the Kent County Council and it is a great boon to the Borough to have so complete a laboratory service at hand. I would like to record my appreciation of the assistance rendered by the County Laboratory, especially in the examination of diphtheria swabs. The details of the specimens from the Borough area which have been examined and reported on in the past year are set out above.

#### DISINFECTION.

The arrangements for the disinfection of infected premises or articles have been described in previous reports and have continued to work satisfactorily. During 1937, 180 rooms and 4548 articles were disinfected and details of this work are to be found in the Tables at the end of this report.

#### F 3. CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer in Maidstone during the past 9 years is as follows :—

	number of deaths
1929 .....	67
1930 .....	53
1931 .....	64
1932 .....	70
1933 .....	59
1934 .....	69
1935 .....	66
1936 .....	78
1937 .....	69

**Deaths from Cancer during 1937 under  
age groups.**

Age Periods.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—
1	—	—
5	—	—
15	—	—
25	1	—
35	3	2
45	1	5
55	10	6
65 and upwards.	18	23
Totals	33	36

**F 4. PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.**

(a) During 1937, five cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified and the Table below shows the number admitted to hospital and the result :—

Cases.			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
5	—	5	5	—	—	—

For the treatment of injuries to and diseases of, the eyes, the Kent County Ophthalmic Hospital is available and provides specialist advice and treatment. The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum recorded above were treated in the hospital, with successful results in every case.

(b) Tuberculosis. No action was necessary during 1937 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925 or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0    ...    ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1    ...    ...	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	3
5    ...    ...	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	—
15   ...    ...	7	9	—	1	3	4	—	—
25   ...    ..	8	11	—	—	2	5	—	—
35   ...    ...	5	4	—	1	6	2	1	—
45   ...    ...	5	1	—	1	5	3	1	—
55   ...    ...	2	—	—	—	2	1	1	—
65 and upwards	4	1	—	—	1	2	1	—
Totals    ...	32	29	5	7	19	17	4	3

The number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis which had been notified was 36. The number which had not been notified was 7.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to the total number of Tuberculosis deaths was thus '16 to 1.

### Analysis of Cases of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	5	—	8	19	6	—	4	1	—	1	45
Diphtheria .....	1	—	2	1	5	22	6	5	9	—	—	—	51
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	7
Pneumonia .....	—	1	—	—	1	2	2	—	7	4	6	1	24
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	8	1	16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dysentery .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Totals.....	7	1	7	1	14	43	15	5	29	12	14	3	151

### Analysis of Deaths of Notifiable Diseases under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Sepsis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	3
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia .....	4	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	3	2	7	6	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals.....	4	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	6	4	7	6	33

TABLE Ia.

Causes of Death.							M.	F.
All Causes	..	...	...	..	...	...	292	278
1	Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
2	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	9	9
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	..	...	...	...	...	...	1
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
9	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	..	...	...	...	19	17
10	Other Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	..	4	3
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	..	2	1
12	General paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	33	36
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	..	6	3
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10	20
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	..	50	66
17	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	21	23
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	19	12
20	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	11	15
21	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
22	Peptic Ulcer...	...	...	...	...	...	10	1
23	Diarrhœa, (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
26	Other liver diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
30	Other puerperal diseases	...	..	..	...	...	...	2
31	Congenital Debility, prem. birth etc.	...	...	...	...	...	15	6
32	Senility	...	...	..	...	...	15	24
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
34	Other Violence	..	...	...	...	...	19	8
35	Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	...	26	14
36	Ill-defined or not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above).								
	Small-pox	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
	Polio-myelitis	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
	Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...



TABLE I. B.

Deaths apportioned to the Wards of the Borough							
Month	High St.	King St.	North	Stone St.	Bridge	Heath	Totals
January	11	8	9	6	10	8	52
February	14	8	7	3	4	5	41
March	9	9	8	6	7	6	45
April	7	10	7	5	1	7	37
May	10	4	6	4	5	4	33
June	6	3	9	6	2	8	34
July	5	2	3	2	1	8	21
August	15	3	4	6	4	7	39
September	—	5	5	6	—	4	20
October	9	5	1	5	2	8	30
November	2	9	5	9	4	5	34
December	15	6	9	6	2	8	46
Add Transfers	32	20	27	16	21	22	138
Totals	135	92	100	80	63	100	570



TABLE IIa.

INFANT MORTALITY. Apportioned to the Wards of the Borough.					
High Street	Bridge	King Street	Stone Street	Heath	North
10	2	5	6	6	10

TABLE IIb.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1937. NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes	...	...	...	...	15	6	1	1	23	4	6	5	1	39
Small-pox	...	...	..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	..	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis	...	...	..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	..	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	..	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	3
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	5	4	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	4	1	1	—	6	1	—	—	1	8
Other Causes	..	...	...	...	4	—	—	1	5	1	—	2	—	8
Nett Live Births in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	607		
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	..	39		
Nett Deaths in the year					{ Legitimate				...	...	...	38		
					{ Illegitimate				...	...	...	1		

TABLE III.

ANNUAL STATISTICS RELATING TO MATERNITY HOME FOR YEAR 1937.

(1) Name and address of Institution	Maternity Block, West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone.
(2) Number of Maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds).	2 until 14/9/37. 8 since 14/9/37.
(3) Number of Maternity cases admitted during the year	63
(4) Average duration of stay	14 days.
(5) Number of cases delivered by— (a) Midwives (b) Doctors	62 1
(6) Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency	Daily visits by the Medical Officer.
(7) Number of cases notified as— (a) Puerperal Fever (b) „ Pyrexia	Nil. 2
(8) Number of cases of Pemphigus Neo- natorum.	Nil.
(9) Number of Infants not entirely breast- fed while in the Institution	5
(10) Number of cases notified as Oph- thalmia Neonatorum	Nil.
(11) Number of Maternal deaths	Nil.
(12) Number of Infant Deaths— (a) Stillborn (b) within 10 days of birth	2 2

## TABLE IVa.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Boarley Supply.**

(2 Samples).

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

1

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

1

## 3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci ..... absent from 100 c.c.

B. welchii.....absent from 16 c.c.

## TABLE IVb.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Cossington Supply.**

(2 Samples).

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

10

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

2

## 3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci .....absent from 100 c.c.

B. welchii.....absent from 16 c.c.

## TABLE IVc.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Cossington Well.****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimeter living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

7

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

3

## 3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci ..... absent from 100 c.c.

B. welchii ... absent from 16 c.c.

'M' bacillus . ..... present in 2 c.c.

## TABLE IVd.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Forstal Supply.****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

5

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

2

## 3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci .....absent from 100 c.c.

B. welchii.....absent from 16 c.c.

## TABLE IVe.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Ewell (Raw).****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

138

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

5

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli. ....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci .....absent from 100 c.c.

B. welchii .....absent from 16 c.c.

## TABLE IVf.

**Summary of Bacteriological Reports.****Ewell (Cholorinated).****(2 Samples).**

1. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon gelatine at 22° C.

6

2. Number of micro-organisms per cubic centimetre living and capable of development upon agar at 37° C.

2

3. MICROBES OF INDICATION :

B. coli.....absent from 100 c.c.

Streptococci .....absent from 100 c.c.

B. welchii .....absent from 16 c.c.

**TABLE Va.**  
**Forstal Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
8.1.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.004	38.1	2.38	.35	0.00	23.8	0.00
5.2.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	35.8	2.24	.29	0.00	22.7	0.00
30.4.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.001	38.9	2.24	.27	0.00	25.7	0.00
29.5.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	39.5	2.38	.25	0.00	25.2	0.00
25.6.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	39.5	2.38	.15	0.00	21.7	0.00
21.7.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.001	38.9	2.38	.21	0.00	21.7	0.00
28.8.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.003	37.0	2.42	.23	0.00	24.7	0.00
17.9.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	29.1	2.42	.21	0.00	21.7	0.00
16.10.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	39.1	2.38	.23	0.00	21.7	0.00
12.11.37.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	38.9	2.35	.27	0.00	21.5	0.00
11.12.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	38.9	2.35	.25	0.00	24.6	0.00
Mean results for 1937.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	37.5	2.35	.25	0.00	24.5	0.00

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

**TABLE Vb.**  
**Cossington Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	1 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
8.1.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.004	23.8	1.30	.28	0.00	15.4	0.00
5.2.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	25.0	1.33	.29	0.00	16.1	0.00
6.3.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.002	26.9	1.37	.23	0.00	17.6	0.00
3.4.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.002	26.0	1.51	.23	0.00	16.5	0.003
30.4.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.001	21.2	1.43	.18	0.00	15.4	0.00
29.5.37.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	23.8	1.44	.30	0.00	15.1	0.006
25.6.37.	0.00	0.00	.003	.005	23.1	1.40	.18	0.00	14.8	0.001
21.7.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.006	23.4	1.43	.27	0.00	15.1	0.00
28.8.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.006	23.0	1.41	.25	0.00	15.1	0.00
17.9.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.001	23.7	1.40	.25	0.00	15.1	0.00
16.10.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	23.7	1.37	.25	0.00	15.1	0.00
13.11.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.006	23.4	1.41	.20	0.00	15.7	0.00
11.12.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	23.6	1.33	.21	0.00	15.7	0.00
Mean results for 1937.	0.00	0.00	.0015	.004	24.1	1.40	.24	0.00	15.6	0.0008

All results are stated in grains per gallon.



**TABLE Vc.**  
**Boarley Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
12.1.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.001	26.3	1.51	.49	0.00	16.0	0.00
5.2.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	27.2	1.58	.41	0.00	18.5	0.00
6.3.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	27.3	1.47	.31	0.00	17.4	0.00
3.4.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	27.1	1.37	.29	0.00	15.4	0.00
29.5.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.001	26.2	1.40	.22	0.00	15.1	0.00
25.6.37.	0.00	0.00	.003	.006	24.9	1.58	.26	0.00	15.4	0.005
24.7.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	25.1	1.58	.34	0.00	15.4	0.00
28.8.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	25.5	1.54	.38	0.00	15.7	0.001
17.9.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.004	25.6	1.51	.41	0.00	15.4	0.00
10.10.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.001	25.8	1.54	.35	0.00	15.4	0.00
13.11.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.006	23.4	1.44	.20	0.00	15.7	0.00
11.12.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.003	25.4	1.51	.43	0.00	15.7	0.00
Mean results for 1937.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	25.8	1.51	.35	0.00	15.9	0.0006

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

**TABLE Vd.**  
**Ewell Water Supply.**

Date of Analysis.	Ammonia.		Oxygen Absorbed.		Total Solid Residue.	Chlorine.	Nitrogen.		Total Hardness.	Iron.
	Ammoniacal.	Albuminoid.	4 hour at 27° C.	4 hours at 27° C.			Nitrates.	Nitrites.		
30.4.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	29.6	1.75	.34	0.00	18.8	0.00
29.5.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	29.3	1.79	.20	0.00	17.4	0.00
25.6.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	28.3	1.86	.16	0.00	17.6	0.00
24.7.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.005	32.3	1.93	.20	0.00	21.3	0.00
28.8.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.005	29.5	1.93	.20	0.00	17.6	0.00
17.9.37.	0.00	0.00	.001	.001	29.3	1.93	.20	0.00	17.4	0.00
16.10.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	29.0	1.89	.23	0.00	17.1	0.00
12.11.37.	0.00	0.00	.003	.007	30.6	1.92	.24	0.00	19.9	0.00
11.12.37.	0.00	0.00	.002	.003	30.7	1.92	.24	0.00	19.9	0.00
Mean results for 1937.	0.00	0.00	.002	.004	29.6	1.88	.22	0.00	18.6	0.00

All results are stated in grains per gallon.

TABLE VI.

Vital Statistics for 1937 and previous years.

	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	Averages for 10 years	1937
Death-Rate ...	12.3	10.6	12.6	11.7	11.2	12.2	11.5	10.7	10.3	11.2	11.1	11.1
Birth-Rate ...	15.1	15.9	15.9	16.1	15.2	14.8	13.7	13.8	14.0	14.8	14.9	13.7
Infant Mortality Rate	39	40	50	58	47	51	31	38	40	55	45	60
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.74	.59	.81	.96	.76	.63	.96	.70	.88	.62	.76	.76
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	.25	.17	.20	.25	.17	.21	.09	.20	.11	.17	.18	.15
Diphtheria ...	.02	.02	.07	—	.07	.07	.05	.09	.06	.06	.05	.04
Scarlet Fever ...	.05	.07	—	—	—	—	.02	.04	—	—	.02	—

TABLE VII.

Birth-Rates, Death-Rates and Analysis of Mortality  
in the year 1937.

	Rate per 1,000 population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 population.									Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All causes.	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths un- der one year
England and Wales	14.9	.60	12.1	.00	—	.02	.01	.04	.07	.45	.54	5.8	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	14.9	.67	12.5	.01	—	.03	.01	.01	.08	.39	.45	7.9	62
148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	15.3	.64	11.9	.00	—	.02	.01	.03	.05	.42	.42	3.2	55
London ...	13.3	.54	12.3	.00	—	.01	.01	.06	.05	.38	.51	12.0	60
Maidstone ...	13.7	.53	11.1	.00	—	.00	.00	.00	.04	.38	.68	4.6	60

The maternal mortality rates are as follows:—

		Puerperal Sepsis.	Others.	Total.
per 1,000	England and Wales	... .97	2.26	3.23
Live Births.	Maidstone ...	... 1.61	3.10	7.74
per 1,000	England and Wales	... .94	2.17	3.11
Total Births.	Maidstone ...	... 4.47	2.98	7.45

TABLE VIII.

**List of Rooms and Articles Disinfected  
during 1937.**

Month.	Blankets.	Sheets.	Counterpanes.	Mattresses.	Pillows.	Bolsters.	Curtains.	Bed-chair Cushions.	Beds.	Miscellaneous.	Totals.	Rooms.
January ...	52	34	14	36	68	14	34	6	12	174	444	24
February ...	38	28	14	35	62	13	31	5	14	103	343	11
March ...	45	45	18	43	69	18	38	3	19	167	465	29
April ...	22	20	9	26	41	9	22	3	8	226	386	12
May ...	6	6	2	19	31	2	16	3	3	20	102	4
June ...	20	20	9	23	42	9	16	3	8	110	260	10
July ...	22	22	11	25	45	10	20	3	7	113	278	11
August ...	78	44	20	112	70	22	59	15	20	199	639	18
September	20	18	6	153	15	7	16	3	14	157	409	9
October ...	39	40	14	36	61	16	41	8	14	134	403	15
November...	39	37	13	39	65	11	38	6	15	132	395	15
December ...	64	50	17	23	41	15	49	9	19	137	424	22
Totals ...	445	364	147	570	610	116	374	67	153	1672	4548	186

## METEOROLOGY.

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The detail of meteorological observations is set forth in Table IX.

The mean reading of the barometer for the year is 29·60, the highest mean reading being for May 29·74, and the lowest for April 29·28.

The hottest month was August, giving a mean of the maximum readings of the thermometer in the shade of 77°, and the mean of the minimum readings of 56°, while the coldest month was December, with a mean of the maximum readings of 42° and a mean of the minimum readings of 34°.

The prevailing winds were S.W., there being 83 days on which the wind was in this quarter.

The total rain-fall for the year was 33·49 inches, the heaviest amount falling in January, viz., 5·20 inches, while in July the amount registered was ·84 inches, this being the driest month of the year.

There were 199 days in the year on which ·01 of an inch or more rain fell.

TABLE IX.

RECORD OF METEOROLOGY 1937, RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.  
(Taken Daily at 9 a.m.)

MONTH.	RELATIVE PROPORTION OF WIND.							
	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	E.	W.
January ...	1	1	1	6	7	7	5	3
February ...	2	—	1	3	5	10	—	7
March ...	1	8	9	2	7	3	—	1
April ...	1	2	6	1	6	7	1	6
May ...	—	5	7	3	6	7	—	3
June ...	1	2	5	3	3	8	1	7
July ...	1	—	2	2	4	10	3	9
August ...	1	—	9	1	8	6	3	—
September ...	—	2	7	3	8	6	—	4
October ...	4	6	1	4	7	5	1	3
November ...	1	2	5	2	9	6	3	2
December ...	3	5	8	2	2	8	2	1
Totals ...	16	33	61	35	72	83	19	46

  

MONTH.	Average Barometer.	Average Thermo- meter (Max.).	Average Thermo- meter (Min.).	RAINFALL.	No. of DAYS ON WHICH '01 FELL.
January ...	29.65	45	36	5.20	23
February ...	29.41	48	38	3.88	24
March ...	29.47	46	34	3.85	23
April ...	29.28	57	44	2.48	18
May ...	29.74	67	49	2.52	16
June ...	29.73	71	52	2.24	15
July ...	29.64	73	56	1.84	11
August ...	29.68	77	56	1.84	8
September ...	29.60	65	48	2.12	15
October ...	29.71	58	46	2.11	11
November ...	29.60	47	35	1.70	10
December ...	29.70	42	34	4.11	22
Averages & Totals for the Year .....	29.60	58	44	33.49	199

## RECORD OF SUNSHINE DURING 1937.

Month.				Hours.	Minutes.
January	...	...	...	36	00
February..	...	..	...	54	12
March	...	...	...	116	42
April	...	..	...	114	18
May	...	...	...	173	06
June	...	...	...	198	18
July	...	..	..	145	54
August	...	...	..	213	36
September	...	...	...	151	36
October	...	...	...	89	42
November	...	...	..	45	36
December	...	...	...	8	00
TOTAL				1347 hours	00 minutes.



## BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE.

**GENERAL SUMMARY.**

Population (estimated 1937)	...	...	...	...	47,290
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	8,172
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	12,600
Average Number of Persons per House (1921)	...	...	...	...	4·6
Average Number of Persons per House (1937)	...	...	...	...	3·8
Area	...	...	...	...	5,972 acres
Density	...	...	...	...	7·9 persons per acre
Annual Birth Rate	...	...	per 1,000 population	...	13·7
Annual Death Rate	...	...	„	„	11·1
Phthisis Death Rate	...	...	„	„	·76
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	...	...	„	„	·15
Cancer Death Rate	...	...	„	„	1·46
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	60·4
Live Births	...	{ Males, 352 } { Females, 294 }	...	...	646
Deaths	...	{ Males, 292 } { Females, 278 }	...	...	570
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	...	76
Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	·92

Elevation.—The population reside at a mean elevation of 70 feet above sea level, ranging from 20 to 250 feet.





